

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2818

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Epilepsy
3 Treatment Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. EPILEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EPI-
6 LEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subchapter II of
7 chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
8 by adding at the end the following new section:

9 **“§ 7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence**

10 “(a) DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.—Not later than
11 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
12 Secretary shall designate an epilepsy center of excellence
13 at each of the 5 centers designated under section 7327.

14 “(b) EXPERT CLINICAL AND RESEARCH STAFF.—
15 Each center designated under subsection (a) shall employ
16 such expert clinical and research staff, including board
17 certified neurologists and neurosurgeons, as may be nec-
18 essary to ensure that such center is capable of serving as
19 a center of excellence in research, education, and clinical
20 care activities in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy,
21 including post-traumatic epilepsy.

22 “(c) REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATION OF CEN-
23 TERS.—Each center designated under subsection (a) shall
24 function as a center for—

25 “(1) research on the diagnosis, treatment, and
26 long-term effects of epilepsy, including epilepsy de-

1 developed as a result of combat, in order to support
2 the provision of services for such diagnosis and
3 treatment in accordance with the most current infor-
4 mation on epilepsy;

5 “(2) the development of evidence-based meth-
6 odologies for treating individuals with epilepsy;

7 “(3) the continuous and consistent coordination
8 of care from the point of referral throughout the di-
9 agnostic and treatment process and ongoing follow-
10 up after return to home and community;

11 “(4) the development of a national system of
12 coordinated care for veterans with epilepsy, includ-
13 ing the development and maintenance of a national
14 network of Department health care personnel with
15 an interest and expertise in the care and treatment
16 of epilepsy and the establishment of a referral sys-
17 tem and procedure within each Veterans Integrated
18 Service Network;

19 “(5) assist in the expansion, where appropriate,
20 of the utilization of telehealth technology, including
21 exploring the use of such technology to develop,
22 transmit, monitor, and review neurological diag-
23 nostic tests and other applicable uses of telehealth
24 technology for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of
25 veterans with epilepsy; and

1 “(6) the dissemination of educational materials
2 and research regarding diagnosis, care, and treat-
3 ment of epilepsy, throughout the Department.

4 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—In order to assist the Sec-
5 retary in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall des-
6 ignate a national coordinator for epilepsy programs who
7 shall report to the official responsible for neurology at the
8 Veterans Health Administration and shall—

9 “(1) supervise the operation of the centers des-
10 ignated under this section;

11 “(2) coordinate and support the national net-
12 work of Department health care professionals with
13 an interest and expertise in the care and treatment
14 of epilepsy;

15 “(3) ensure that the education and research
16 mission of such centers is being accomplished; and

17 “(4) conduct regular evaluations of such centers
18 to ensure compliance with the requirements of this
19 section.

20 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

- 1 after the item relating to section 7330 the following new
- 2 item:

“7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 24, 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

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